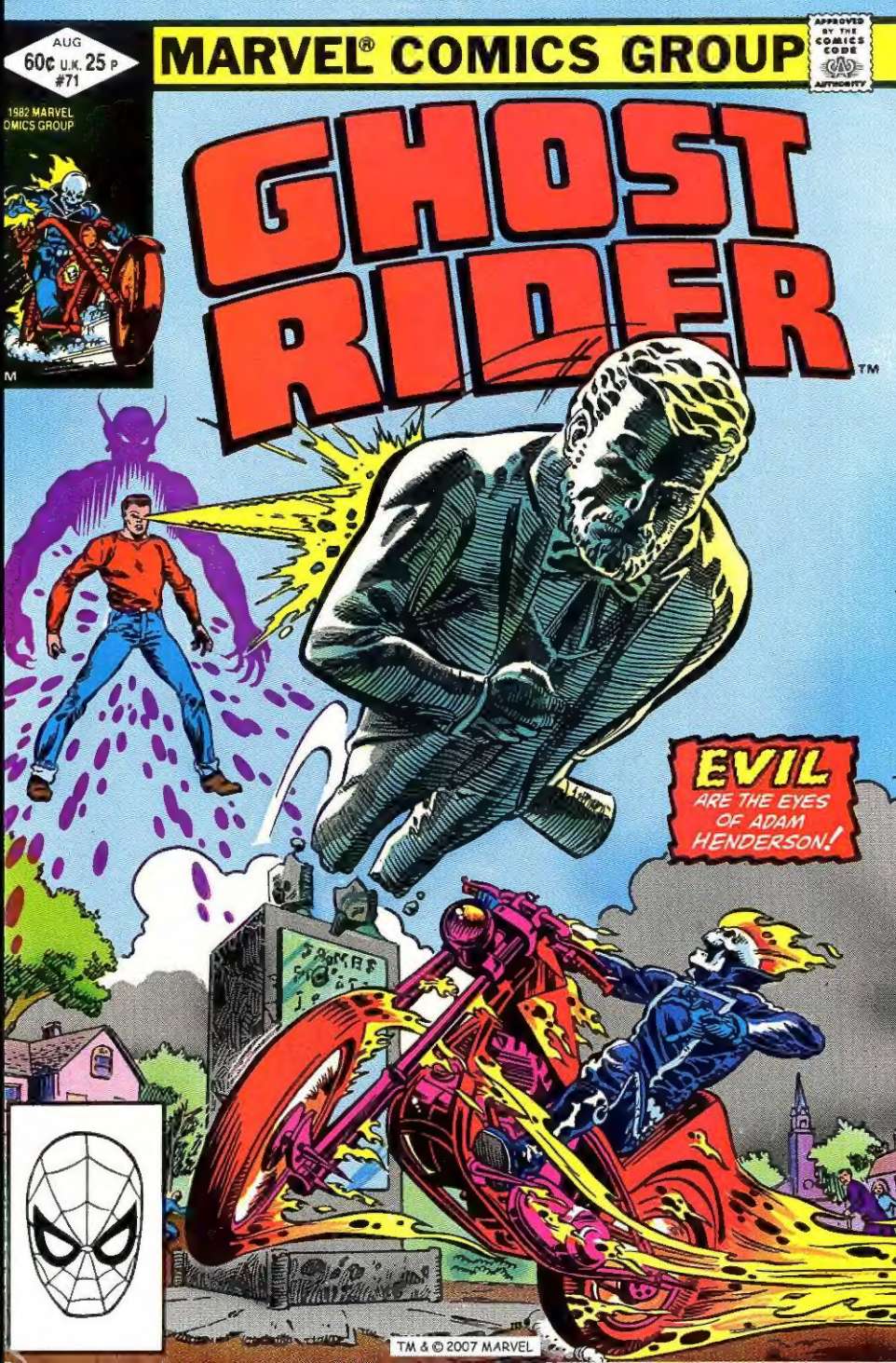
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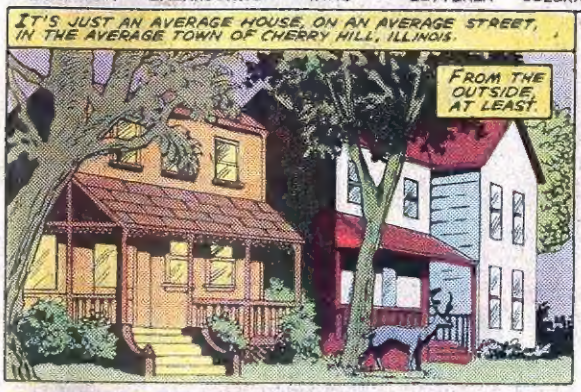

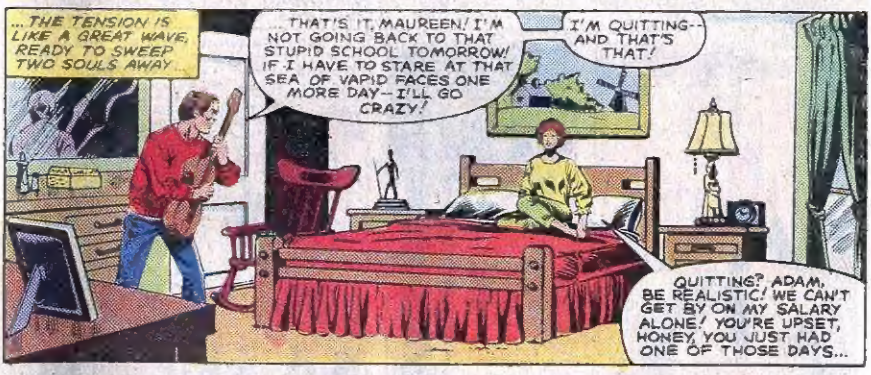
...THE TENSION IS LIKE A GREAT WAVE, READY TO SWEEP TWO SOULS AWAY...
...THAT'S IT, MAUREEN! I'M NOT GOING BACK TO THAT STUPID SCHOOL TOMORROW! IF I HAVE TO STARE AT THAT SEA OF VAPID FACES ONE MORE DAY--I'LL GO CRAZY!
I'M QUITTING--AND THAT'S THAT!
QUITTING? ADAM, BE REALISTIC! WE CAN'T GET BY ON MY SALARY ALONE! YOU'RE UPSET, HONEY, YOU JUST HAD ONE OF THOSE DAYS...

MAUREEN, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! EVERY DAY IS "ONE OF THOSE DAYS"! WHEN I TOOK THIS CRUMMY JOB EIGHT YEARS AGO, I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST GONNA BE A TEMPORARY THING!

I'D TEACH HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS UNTIL THE MUSIC STARTED TO CLICK--AND THEN WE'D GET OUR TAILS OUT OF THIS CRUMMY TOWN...

GHOST RIDER • Vol. 1, No. 71, August, 1982. (U.S.P.S. 425-850) Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Vice-President, Publishing, Milton Schiffman, Vice-President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 575 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1982 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 60c per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate $7.20 for 12 issues, Canada, $8.20. Foreign, $8.20. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. GHOST RIDER (including all prominent characters featured in this issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. Postmaster: Send address changes to Subscription Dept., Marvel Comics Group, 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

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ADAM--MY GOD! THAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE GUITAR AND YOU JUST--SMASHED IT--
--JUST LIKE I'VE BEEN SMASHED, MAUREEN!
BATTERED INTO A THOUSAND PIECES!
SLAM!
ADAM, WAIT!
COME BACK!
OH... ADAM...
IT HAPPENS TO THE BEST OF US, 'ROUND ABOUT OUR THIRTIETH BIRTHDAYS; WE LOOK BACK OVER OUR SHOULDERS...
...AND SEE OUR DREAMS RUNNING AWAY, LIKE RAIN-WATER DOWN A GUTTER.
WE WANT SO MUCH TO MAKE ONE LAST DESPERATE GRAB FOR THEM--BUT THE CHASM IS TOO WIDE, THE LEAP TOO FAR...
...I WONDER WHAT BROUGHT ME OUT HERE--TO WHERE MAUREEN AND I USED TO GAZE UP AT THE STARS WHILE I'D SERENADE HER?
I WAS SUCH A NAIVE FOOL! I REALLY THOUGHT THAT IF YOU DREAMED LONG AND HARD ENOUGH--YOU'D GET THE TICKET ON THAT TRAIN TO NIRVANA!
I THINK MAUREEN STILL BELIEVES THAT/ SHE'S THE KIND OF PERSON WHO CAN TAKE ALMOST ANY NEGATIVE SITUATION AND TRANSMUTE IT INTO PURE GOLD/
I LOVE HER FOR THAT.
BUT THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT SHE'S BLIND TO REALITY... TO THE CREEPING TIDE OF DARKNESS THAT'S INCHING UP ON US--ALL...?
HEY! WHERE'S THAT SHADOW COMING FROM--?
OH, MY GOOD LORD...
2

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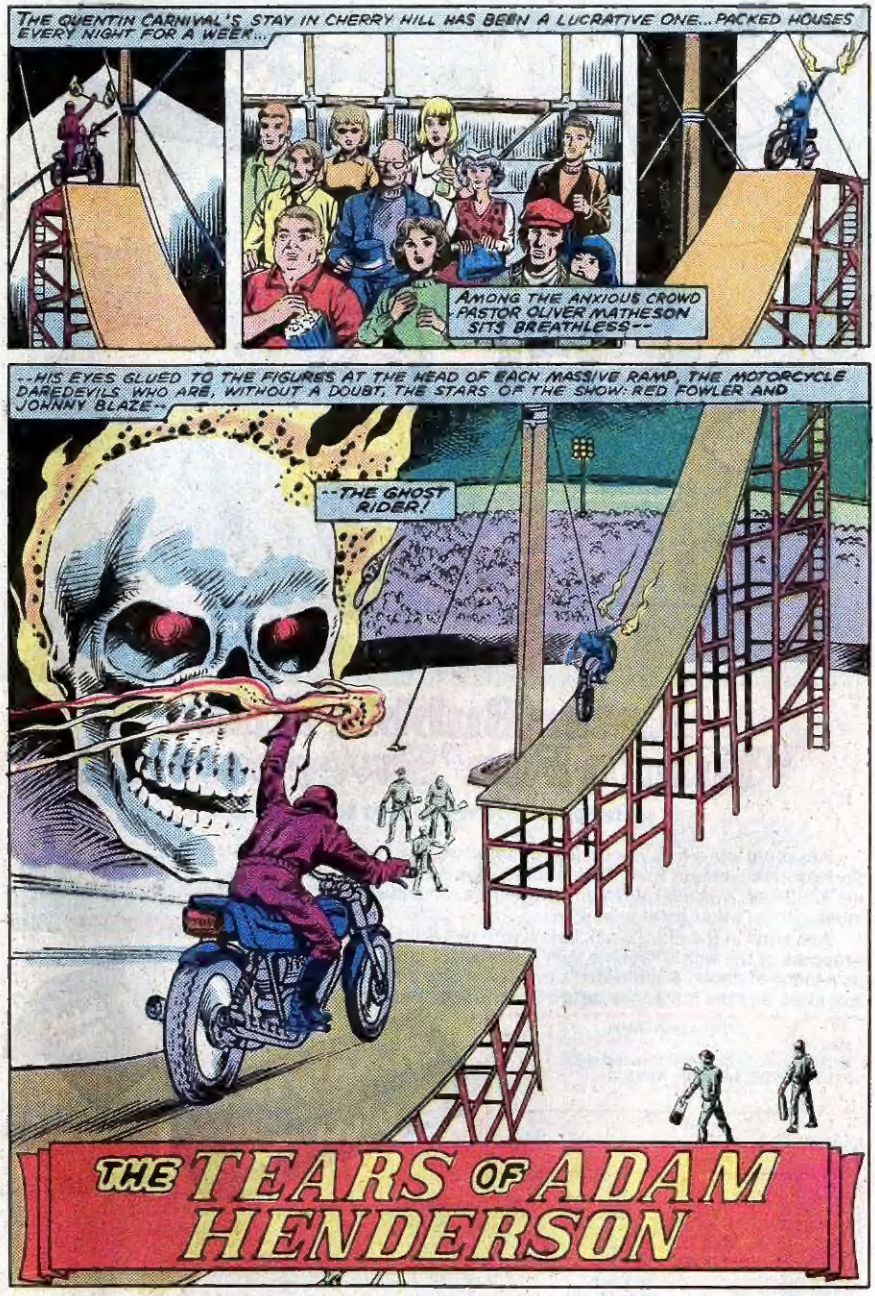
THE QUENTIN CARNIVAL'S STAY IN CHERRY HILL HAS BEEN A LUCRATIVE ONE... PACKED HOUSES EVERY NIGHT FOR A WEEK...
AMONG THE ANXIOUS CROWD PASTOR OLIVER MATHESON SITS BREATHLESS--
--HIS EYES GLUED TO THE FIGURES AT THE HEAD OF EACH MASSIVE RAMP, THE MOTORCYCLE DAREDEVILS WHO ARE, WITHOUT A DOUBT, THE STARS OF THE SHOW: RED FOWLER AND JOHNNY BLAZE--
--THE GHOST RIDER!
THE TEARS OF ADAM HENDERSON

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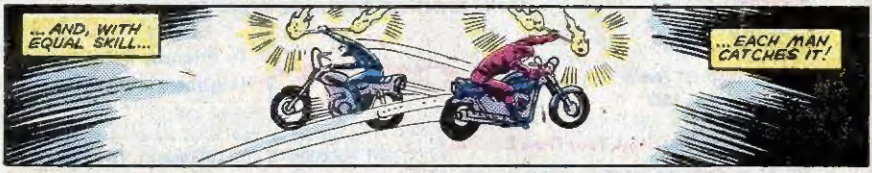
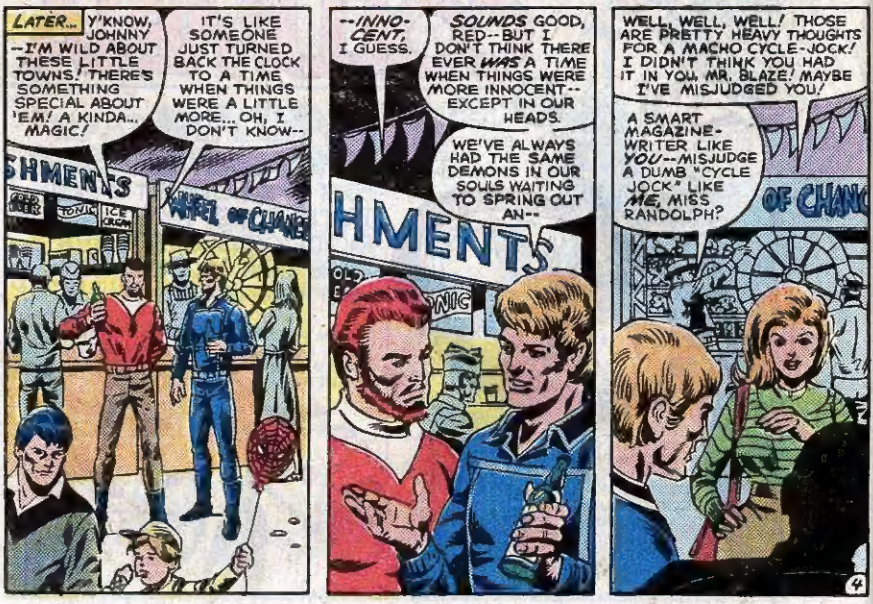
THE CROWD GASPS AS THE TWO CYCLISTS ROAR HIGH ABOVE THE SAWDUST-STREWN FLOOR...
WITH FLUID GRACE, EACH MAN THROWS HIS BRIGHTLY-BURNING TORCH...




LATER...
Y'KNOW, JOHNNY --I'M WILD ABOUT THESE LITTLE TOWNS! THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT 'EM! A KINDA... MAGIC!
IT'S LIKE SOMEONE JUST TURNED BACK THE CLOCK TO A TIME WHEN THINGS WERE A LITTLE MORE... OH, I DON'T KNOW--
--INNOCENT, I GUESS.
SOUNDS GOOD, RED--BUT I DON'T THINK THERE EVER WAS A TIME WHEN THINGS WERE MORE INNOCENT--EXCEPT IN OUR HEADS.
WE'VE ALWAYS HAD THE SAME DEMONS IN OUR SOULS WAITING TO SPRING OUT AN--
WELL, WELL, WELL! THOSE ARE PRETTY HEAVY THOUGHTS FOR A MACHO CYCLE-JOCK! I DIDN'T THINK YOU HAD IT IN YOU, MR. BLAZE! MAYBE I'VE MISJUDGED YOU!
A SMART MAGAZINE-WRITER LIKE YOU--MISJUDGE A DUMB "CYCLE JOCK" LIKE ME, MISS RANDOLPH?
4

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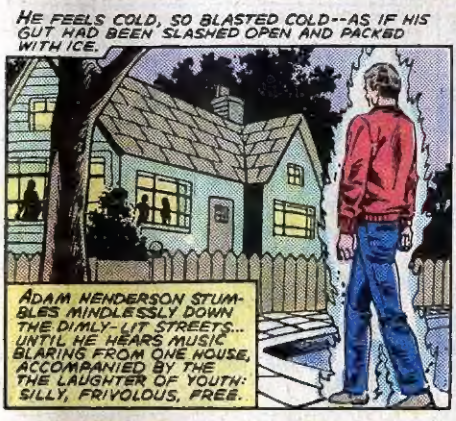
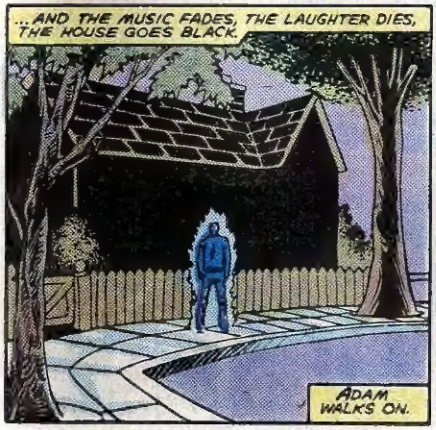
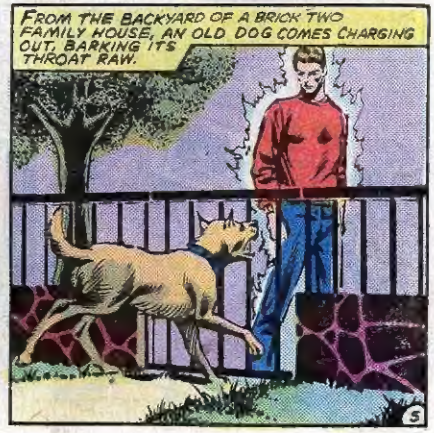
DON'T BE SILLY! I'M JUST A MACHO JERK TRYING TO PROVE HIS MANHOOD BY DRESSING IN LEATHER AND RIDING A BIG, BAD CHOPPER-- JUST LIKE YOU THINK!
WHEEL OF FORT

RED AND I ARE GONNA GO SOMEWHERE TO LIFT WEIGHTS AND COMPARE THE SIZE OF OUR MUSCLES!
HEH-HEH! THAT'S THE WAY, BUDDY-- IT'S ABOUT TIME MISS HIGH-AND-MIGHTY GOT A TASTE OF HER OWN MEDICINE!
REFRESH
WELL, I'LL BE--!


HE FEELS COLD, SO BLASTED COLD--AS IF HIS GUT HAD BEEN SLASHED OPEN AND PACKED WITH ICE.
ADAM HENDERSON STUMBLES MINDLESSLY DOWN THE DIMLY-LIT STREETS... UNTIL HE HEARS MUSIC BLARING FROM ONE HOUSE, ACCOMPANIED BY THE THE LAUGHTER OF YOUTH: SILLY, FRIVOLOUS, FREE.





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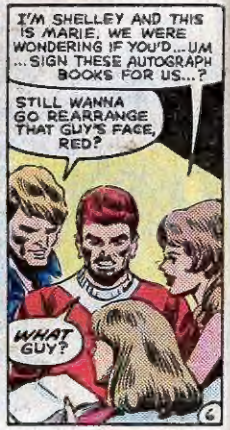
HOW LONG HE WALKS BEFORE HE ARRIVES HERE AT THE CARNIVAL, HE DOES NOT KNOW. HE JUST KNOWS THAT THE COLD INSIDE HIM IS GROWING WORSE...
...AND THAT THIS MELANGE OF LIGHTS, SOUNDS, ODORS... LIFE... SOMEHOW OFFENDS HIM, HURTS HIM.

THAT SUCKER KNOCKED ME DOWN AND DIDN'T SO MUCH AS APOLOGIZE!
COME BACK HERE, BUDDY-- I WANNA REARRANGE YOUR FACE!
EASY, RED!
PITCH & WIN!

YOU DON'T WANT CYNTHIA RANDOLPH FINDING OUT THAT YOU REALLY ARE A MACHO DUNDERHEAD, DO YOU?
I DON'T CARE WHAT SHE--
PITCH & WIN!
MR. BLAZE-- MR. FOWLER--?


I'M SHELLEY AND THIS IS MARIE. WE WERE WONDERING IF YOU'D ...UM ...SIGN THESE AUTOGRAPH BOOKS FOR US...?
STILL WANNA GO REARRANGE THAT GUY'S FACE, RED?
WHAT GUY?

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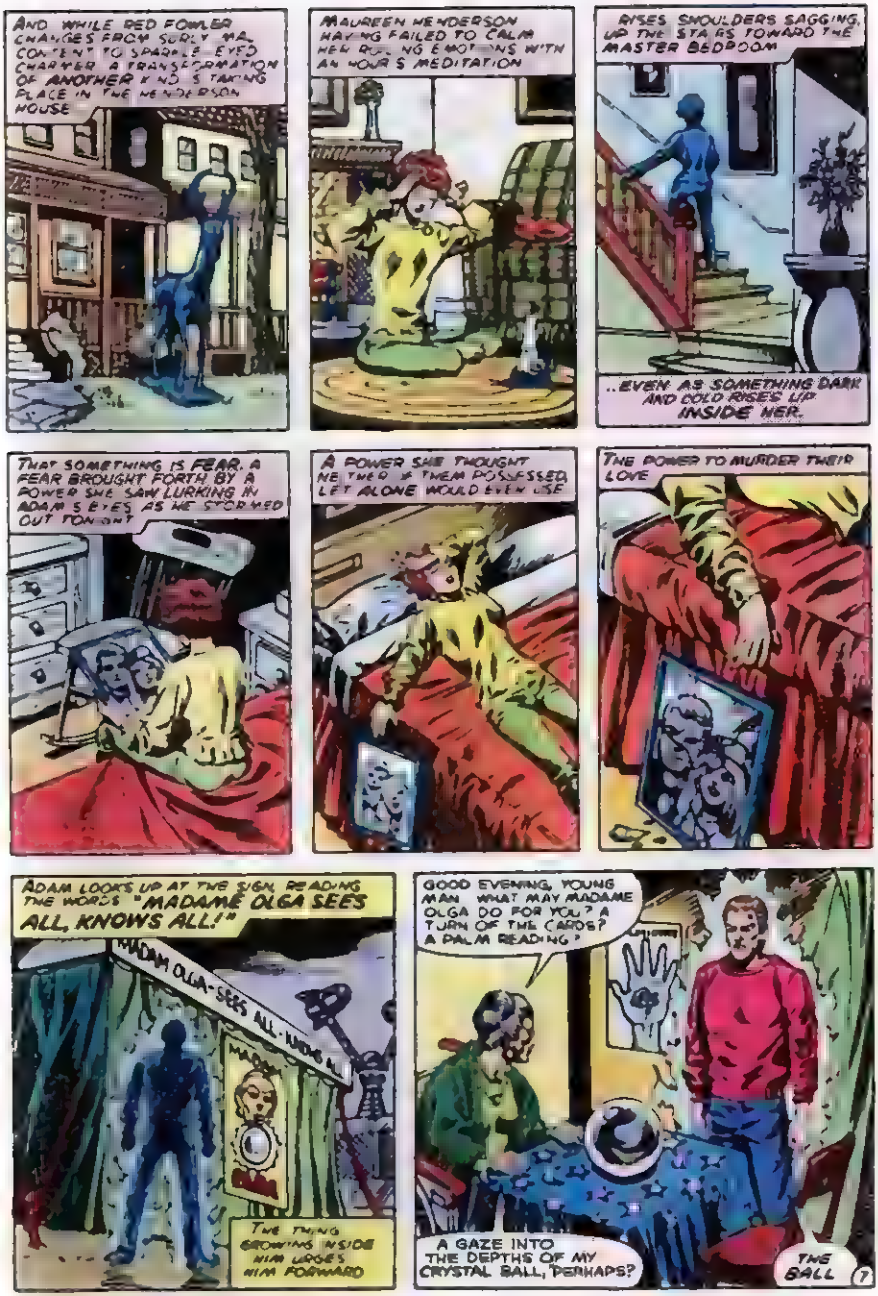
AND WHILE RED FOWLER CHANGES FROM SURLY MAL CONTENT TO SPARKLE-EYED CHARMER A TRANSFORMATION OF ANOTHER KIND IS TAKING PLACE IN THE HENDERSON HOUSE
MAUREEN HENDERSON HAVING FAILED TO CALM HER RUSHING EMOTIONS WITH AN HOUR'S MEDITATION
EYES, SHOULDERS SAGGING UP THE STAIRS TOWARD THE MASTER BEDROOM
..EVEN AS SOMETHING DARK AND COLD RISES UP INSIDE HER.
THAT SOMETHING IS FEAR. A FEAR BROUGHT FORTH BY A POWER SHE SAW LURKING IN ADAM'S EYES AS HE STORMED OUT TONIGHT
A POWER SHE THOUGHT NETHER SHE NOR THEM POSSESSED LET ALONE WOULD EVER USE
THE POWER TO MURDER THEIR LOVE
ADAM LOOKS UP AT THE SIGN, READING THE WORDS "MADAME OLGA SEES ALL, KNOWS ALL!"
MADAM OLGA-SEES ALL-KNOWS ALL
THE THING GROWING INSIDE HIM URGES HIM FORWARD
GOOD EVENING, YOUNG MAN. WHAT MAY MADAME OLGA DO FOR YOU? A TURN OF THE CARDS? A PALM READING?
A GAZE INTO THE DEPTHS OF MY CRYSTAL BALL, PERHAPS?
THE BALL
7

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WHAT IS IT YOU WISH TO FIND REVEALED IN THE MYSTIC CRYSTAL, MY SON?
TRUTH
INDEED? THEN CLEAR YOUR MIND --AND TAKE HOLD OF MY HAND...
MADAME OLGA IS A FRAUD A FAILED ACTRESS TURNED CARNIVAL HUCKSTER WHO'S GIVEN THIS PERFORMANCE HUNDREDS OF TIMES. BUT NEVER BEFORE WAS SHE FELT AN ELECTRICAL JOLT AS SHE TOUCHED A RUBE'S HANDS...
NEVER BEFORE HAVE IMAGES BEGUN TO SWIRL WITHIN HER [illegible] MYSTIC CRYSTAL"
HER HEART STARTS POUNDING LIKE A JUNGLE DRUM
HER BREATH COMES HARD
THE "RUBE" SPEAKS, IN A VOICE LIKE LIVING ICE...
FEEL THE FIRES THAT HAVE BURNED WITHIN ME FOR UNTOLD AGES--AND HEAR MY TALE!
ONCE, THERE WAS A RACE OF BEINGS CALLED THE S'RAPHN -- THAT HAD EVOLVED INTO A STATE OF GRACE, NOBILITY, OF LOVING AWARENESS BEAUTIFUL WERE THEY -- AND FREE
'AND THIS RACE SET THEMSELVES A NOBLE GOAL, ONE THAT WHEN REACHED, WOULD BRING JOY TO ALL CREATURES IN THE UNIVERSE THEY SET OUT INTO SPACE TO FIND CREATION'S HEART -- THE REASON FOR BEING -- ULTIMATE TRUTH."
8

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A TRUTH THEY NEVER FOUND.
THAT BRUTAL FACT WEIGHED UPON THEM. THEY GREW UGLY. COLD. DESPERATE. INSANE
AS ONE THEY HURLED THEMSELVES INTO AN OCEAN OF FIRE--AND COMMITTED RACIAL SUICIDE.
BUT NOT EVEN DEATH COULD WRITE AN END TO THEIR TORMENT. THE COLLECTIVE UNCONSCIOUS OF THE S'RAPHH CRIED OUT FOR REVENGE!
AND, AFTER LONG, LONG CENTURIES... HE AROSE: NULL--THE LIVING DARKNESS!
"NULL--WHO CAME TO YOUR WORLD SEEKING TO OBLITERATE ALL LIFE--TO LEAVE ONLY THE DEAD AS RULERS OF THIS COSMOS WITHOUT MEANING!"*
* SEE DEFENDERS #103!
NULL WAS BUT A CHILD--MERE DAYS OLD--AND HE WAS BEATEN BACK BY THE HEROES CALLED THE DEFENDERS!
WOUNDED, PAINED, CONFUSED, NULL REALIZED THAT HE HAD MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT HIMSELF--AND THIS WORLD OF YOURS--
--AND SO HE SET OUT TO WANDER THE EARTH--TO STUDY THE HUMAN RACE--
--TO SEARCH FOR ONE BITTER HUMAN HEART WITH WHICH HE COULD MERGE!
AND HE HAS FOUND THAT HEART.
9

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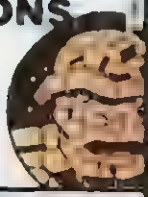

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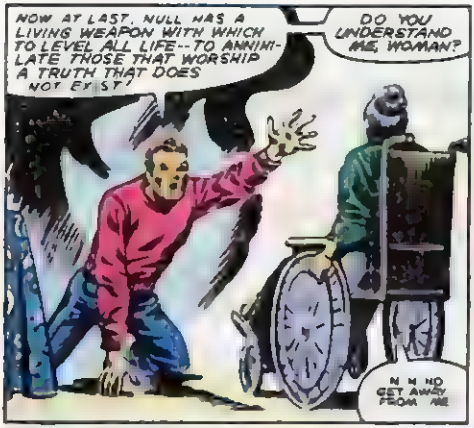
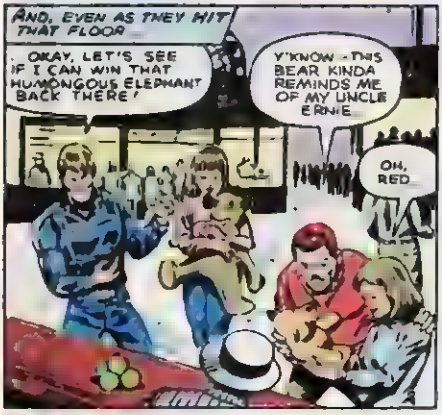

NOW AT LAST, NULL HAS A LIVING WEAPON WITH WHICH TO LEVEL ALL LIFE--TO ANNIHILATE THOSE THAT WORSHIP A TRUTH THAT DOES NOT EXIST!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME, WOMAN?
N N NO GET AWAY FROM ME

WHY WON'T ANYONE UNDERSTAND? WHY WON'T ANYONE SEE WHAT I SEE?
BLACK TEARS OOZE LIKE MUD FROM ADAM HENDERSON'S EYES, ROLLING TOWARD THE FLOOR..


AND, EVEN AS THEY HIT THAT FLOOR...
OKAY, LET'S SEE IF I CAN WIN THAT HUMONGOUS ELEPHANT BACK THERE!
Y'KNOW--THIS BEAR KINDA REMINDS ME OF MY UNCLE ERNIE...
OH, RED...

CORKY! WHAT IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN WAS THAT?!
YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE, MR. QUENTIN!
IT WAS SOME KIND OF EXPLOSION--FROM OLGA'S TENT! BUT--MY GOD--IT SOUNDED LIKE SOMEONE DROPPED AN ATOMIC BOMB ON HER!
PITCH'E WH
10

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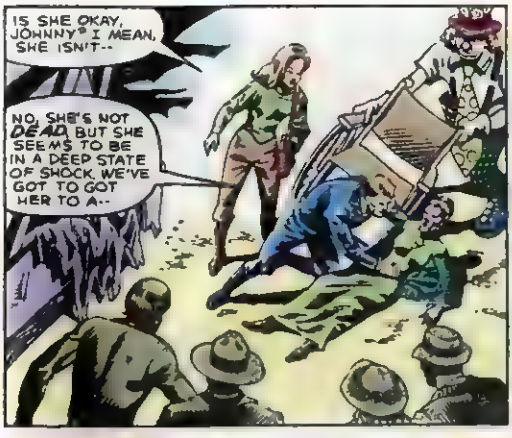
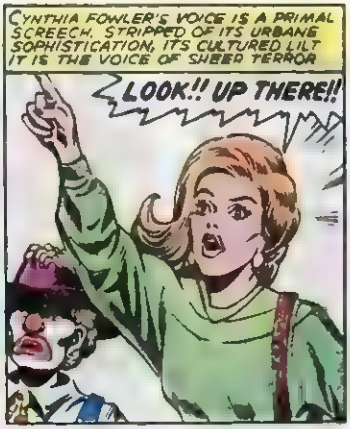
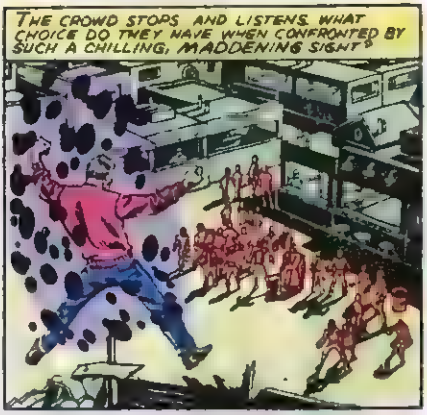



CYNTHIA FOWLER'S VOICE IS A PRIMAL SCREECH, STRIPPED OF ITS URBANE SOPHISTICATION, IT'S CULTURED LILT IT IS THE VOICE OF SHEER TERROR
LOOK!! UP THERE!!

.. AND WITH GOOD REASON
HEAR ME, YOU MASSES OF THE BLIND, THE IGNORANT, THE NAIVE!
HEAR THE WORDS OF ONE WHO HAS PEERED INTO THE LUNATIC EYES OF CREATION-- AND HAS LIVED TO TELL THE TALE!



AND, AMONG THE HORRIFIED CROWD, PASTOR OLIVER MATHESON STANDS BREATHLESS, HIS EYES GLUED TO THE HELLISH FIGURE THAT HANGS UNMOVING, ON THE AIR...

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THE THING THAT WAS ADAM
AND LETS FLY A GROTESQUE, GUTTERAL WAIL
THEN IT PAUSES, POINTS, AND SPITS ONE WORD...
YOU!!
OLIVER!
HE FEELS SOMETHING COLD AND DARK RISING INSIDE HIM..
HE FEELS HIS BODY GRIPPED BY SOME UNSEEN FORCE AND LIFTED.
CLOCK
HIGH INTO THE AIR
COME TO ME MAN OF EARTH
P-PLEASE..LET ME--
YOU'RE AN OBSCENE MANIPULATOR OF MAN'S FATE! A VILE VENDOR OF LIES!

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SINCE MAN FIRST WALKED THIS EARTH, THERE HAVE BEEN COZENERS LIKE YOU-- WHO WARP THE MEANINGLESS AND CLAIM IT HAS MEANING--
SLAP
=UGH=
YOU DARE TO PROMISE A NON-EXISTENT HEAVEN TO CREATURES ALREADY IN HELL!
NO MORE, SHAMAN! NO MORE!
AS HE'S BORNE AWAY ON SCREAMING WINDS, PASTOR MATHESON TRIES TO PRAY, FOR COURAGE--FOR EVEN THE FAINTEST GLIMMER OF HOPE BUT HIS FEAR HAS SWALLOWED HIM WHOLE
WHAT WAS THAT THING?
H-HE'S TAKEN MY OLIVER!
WE CAN'T JUST STAND HERE! WE GOTTA GO AFTER THAT THING!
JOHN--NO! ARE YOU CRAZY?! DON'T GO AFTER IT ALONE! JOHN!
EASY, MISS RANDOLPH! JOHNNY KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING
NOW, YOU FOLKS HANG TIGHT-- WHILE I GO SCARE UP THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES!
B-BUT--
CYNTHIA RANDOLPH IS CONFUSED
..NOT JUST BY THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF A MAN SHE'S LOOKED UPON WITH DISDAIN-- BUT BY THE FAINT STIRRINGS OF THE REAL CONCERN SHE FEELS FOR THAT MAN...
BE CAREFUL, JOHN... PLEASE.
13

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BUT JOHNNY BLAZE HAS NO THOUGHTS OF CYNTHIA RANDOLPH--NOR EVEN OF "RED" FOWLER, WHO SHARES THE TERRIBLE SECRET THAT HAS MADE BLAZE'S LIFE A LIVING... NIGHTMARE.
ALL BLAZE KNOWS IS AN ALL-TOO FAMILIAR TERROR AS HIS IDENTITY IS SUBMERGED. HIS HUMANITY CAST OFF.
IN HIS PLACE STANDS A FLAME-SCARRED CREATURE OF POLISHED BONE, A FIRE-EYED DEMON WHOM MEN CALL
...THE GHOST RIDER!
QUICKLY, THE NETHER-SPAWN CREATES HIS CYCLE OF MYSTIC HELLFIRE
HE TASTES A DARKNESS AS UNFATHOMABLE AS HIS OWN, SCENTS A PRIMAL EVIL, FOUL AND UNMISTAKABLE...
AND THEN HE ROARS OFF IN SEARCH OF THE GHASTLY VENGEANCE THAT MUST EVER BE HIS...
ELSEWHERE, MAUREEN HENDERSON BOLTS AWAKE AS SHE HEARS A KEY IN THE LOCK, FOOTSTEPS ON THE STAIRS
AS SHE FEELS HER HUSBAND DRAW NEAR.
ADAM--?
YES, MAUREEN.
OH, ADAM, I'M SO SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER..
I BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING, MAUREEN A SPECIAL GIFT.
14

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DO YOU LIKE IT?
H-HELP ME! HELP ME!
MAURSEN CAN ONLY WONDER IF HER MIND HAS SNAPPED-- IF SHE IS STILL SLEEPING AND TRAPPED IN AN UNSPEAKABLE NIGHTMARE.
YOU DON'T LIKE IT?
THEN I'LL THROW IT AWAY.
ARMS AND LEGS SWINGING WILDLY, IMPOTENTLY, THE DOLL-SIZED FIGURE TUMBLES THROUGH THE AIR...
AND, AS IT FALLS...
IT GROWS
UNTIL
PASTOR OLIVER HENDERSON CANNOT HEAR THE SCREAM OF THE GHOST RIDER'S CYCLE AS IT TURNS DOWN ELM STREET...
HE CANNOT HEAR THE WAIL OF DELIGHT AS THE NETHERSPAWN IS DRAWN, LIKE FILINGS TO A MAGNET, TOWARD THE EVIL HE HAS BEEN SEEKING
RO... NG ON HIS THROTTLE THE GHOST RIDER USES THE CAR IN THE HENDERSON'S DRIVEWAY AS A MAKESHIFT RAMP.
15

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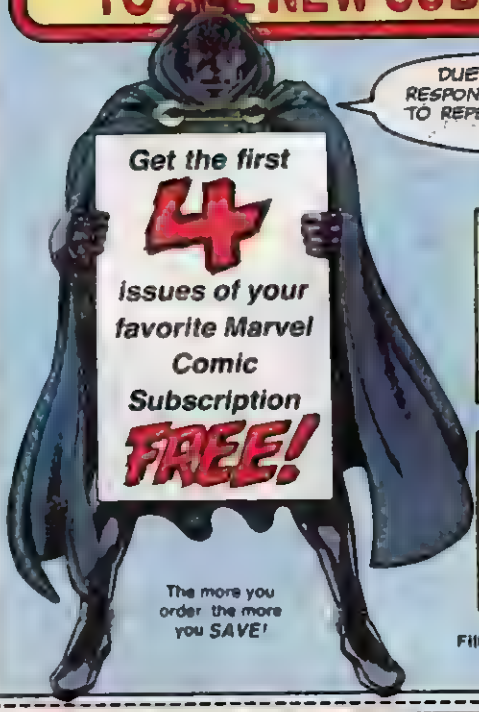
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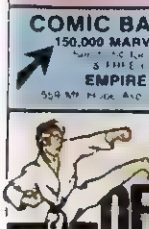

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GHOST WRITERS!

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TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR
LINDA GRANT
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Mr. DeFalco,

Every once in a while, a magazine with just a bit more humanity finds its way to the stands. That is why I feel compelled to express my gratitude for the feeling I derived from GHOST RIDER #67.

Entertainment of the calibre is rare. The real issues of love, hate, forgiveness, and revenge have never been better defined. For this reason, I must offer my heart-felt thanks to the wonderful team which provided such an insightful tale: J. Marc DeMatteis, Don Perlin, Dave Simons, Tom Sutton, Diana Albers, George Roussos, Tom DeFalco, and – of course – James Shooter, without whose guidance this event could never have occurred.

Michael Sloan
Box47
Hazlet, Saskatchewan
Canada S0N 1E0

Dear People,

It was great to see Don Perlin back at the drafting board on GHOST RIDER again in issue #67. . . along with his DEFENDERS partner, Marc DeMatteis.

A question. . . on page 11, Johnny Blaze said that both his parents were dead, yet in the Marvel Comics Index of the X-Men, the synopsis on Ghost Rider states that Johnny's mother left shortly after he was born. Who's right?

Peter Garcia
Box 711
Hatillo, PR 00659

Johnny's right, of course, Peter! Believe us, whenever you're in doubt about the facts, you'll find them right here – in the pages of Marvel Comics.

By the way, we don't publish the Marvel Comics Index. The information reported therein is generally correct, but occasionally you may uncover an inaccuracy – like the case in point.

Dear Tom,

GHOST RIDER #67 has been the best issue of late. Don Perlin was back, and he had Tom Sutton and Dave Simons backing him up on inks. Of the two styles, Simon's was my favorite. It's been years since I've seen GR rendered so well. I wish we could see more of the same in the future.

Speaking of the future, the news that Roger Stern, Bob Budiansky, and Joe Rubinstein will become the new creative team next issue comes as quite a shock. I have nothing but the highest respect for these three incredible talents, and to learn that they'll be doing GHOST RIDER. . . well, as I said, it's quite a shock. To be truthful, GHOST RIDER has become quite a whipping boy among certain fans, a target for their derision. Despite the bad-mouthing, I've kept on buying the book, hoping that the potential for greatness would be realized.

After all, of all the supernatural books Marvel came up with in the monstrous seventies, GHOST RIDER was the one that really caught my eye. Let's face it, visually, he's one, mean dude. But, except for perhaps a dozen existing issues, I don't think he's ever been handled properly. This book should start to carry its own creatively, and starting next month, maybe – just maybe – it will. I sure hope so.

Henry Kujawa
1202 Everett Street
Camden, NJ 08104

Glad you stuck with us, Henry. We're sure you'll like what's in store for you in the upcoming months! Who knows, we just might change a few minds among those faint-hearted fans you mentioned.

Dear Tom,

"Holding On To Sally" was one of the best GHOST RIDER stories I've read in a long time. That one story told more about the Johnny Blaze/Ghost Rider relationship than all of the previous six issues.

While I'm on the subject of the Johnny Blaze/Ghost Rider relationship, let me see if I've got it right. As far as I can tell, GR was a lower demon in the Hades Dimension until he was shunted into Blaze's body, as part of a curse. At first, when Johnny was transformed, he took on the demon's form, but GR's persona lay dormant. As the years have passed, the demon has slowly been exerting himself. Now, as revealed by J. Marc DeMatteis in this issue – and by Jim Shooter in AVENGERS #214, the demon is in full control whenever he's set loose. And Johnny Blaze is so scared of the demon, he's willing to do almost anything to keep him down.

Something looks like it's about to give on that front. You can bet I'll be plunking down my change to find out what!

Terry Collins
337 Badgett Avenue
Mt. Airy, NC 27030

And we think you'll be glad you did, Terry. . . especially when you see what Rog, Bob, and Dave have in store for you next issue!

Dear Marvel,

In response to the question of how strong the Ghost Rider is, I have a theory.

As we know, Ghost Rider is the very embodiment of vengeance and destruction. He's what vengeance would look like if it had a physical form fired with the flames of destruction, if you get my drift. Next to love, vengeance is probably one of the most driving emotional forces in existence. If a force is that strong, imagine how strong that would be in the physical world. Vengeance is ugly and filled with hate, which probably explains why Ghost Rider has the appearance of a skeleton. The destruction comes in as an adjunct to vengeance – in other words, as the wish to destroy the enemy and anything about him. This is manifest in GR's hot, boiling fury. Mix that with a touch of evil, and you get a demon spawned in the very pits of the mystic Hades Dimension.

His strength, therefore, being supernatural and emotional in origin, is many times that of a human being. Where a man might get angry and toss a chair at something, the Ghost Rider will happily throw people, cars and even something as massive as a bus. . . if it helps him achieve his lust for vengeance.

Now, just in case someone asks how Ghost Rider is able to send his mystic flame shooting through his leather gloves, the answer is simple. As it's not a normal flame, it passes through certain materials like a ghost. The flame is, for all intents and purposes, alive! And, of course, GR can make it feel like anything from a light sting to the slice of a thousand blades.

Gruesome, isn't it?

John Chavis
346 East 33rd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90011

Sure is, John!

Dear Guys,

I like the vengeance trip that Ghost Rider's been on lately. In issue #67, you were telling James Barnes how Ghost Rider rates with Spider-Man. Well, as far as I'm concerned, Ghost Rider could destroy Spider-Man. All Spider-Man can do is shoot a web which GR could break out of in a few seconds. The only thing Spider-Man could do against Ghost Rider is run!

Ghost Rider is the best. His is the only comic I collect, and I want to thank you for making it so good.

Lee Ferguson
5224 Pine Crest Avenue
Richmond, VA 23225

Well, thank you for collecting, Lee.

But don't be so quick to count out of Spidey! After all, his webbing nearly held the Juggernaut in place recently. GR would probably have to burn his way loose, and that would take considerably longer than a few seconds! Spider-Man can do a lot more than just shoot webs. . . and we oughtta know!

NEXT ISSUE: The story it took an extra month to tell! What is the secret of Elliot Franklin? Who is bedevilling the Quentin Carnival? And can Johnny Blaze resist the power of the Ghost Rider? Find out in the story we call "Temptations!" It all comes down in GHOST RIDER #72. . . on sale in just thirty days! 'Nuff said!

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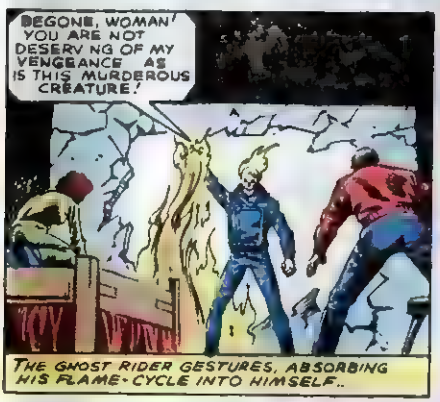
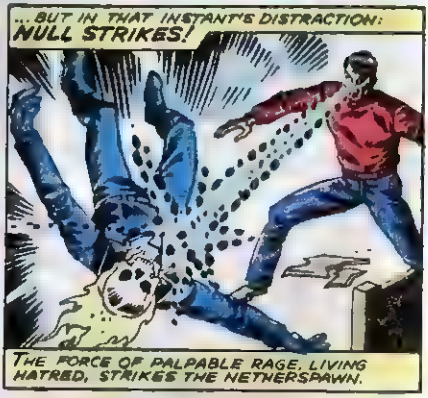
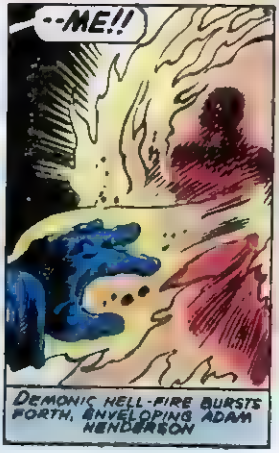

BEGONE, WOMAN! YOU ARE NOT DESERVING OF MY VENGEANCE AS IS THIS MURDEROUS CREATURE!
THE GHOST RIDER GESTURES, ABSORBING HIS FLAME-CYCLE INTO HIMSELF..





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IF THE BRIMSTONE BIKER IS SURPRISED BY THIS SEEMING IMMUNITY HE DOESN'T SHOW IT. HE SIMPLY LEAPS FORWARD LOCKING HIS SKELETAL FINGERS AROUND ADAM HENDERSON'S THROAT
HOLY COW! WHEN THAT GUY FROM THE CARNIVAL SAID THERE WAS SOMETHING CRAZY GOING ON—HE WASN'T KIDDING!
POLICE
THEY HIT THE GROUND BRUTALLY SPLINTERING THE BONES IN ADAM'S WRISTS—BUT HE EXHIBITS LITTLE PAIN
PASTOR! Y-YOU'RE ALIVE!
M-MRS HENDERSON—STAY AWAY!
THIS IS THE DEVIL'S WORK!
"--AND WE'VE NO POWER AGAINST CREATURES LIKE THESE! NONE AT ALL!"
WHOMP!
WE SHALL SOON SEE, MORTAL—JUST HOW MUCH AGONY YOU CAN BEAR!
ADAM SCREAMS—MAUREEN SHRIEKS—AND PASTOR MATHEWS [illegible] RISES HIMSELF FOR HIS OWN LACK OF FAITH
HE UNLEASHES A LIGHT BLACKER THAN NIGHT BRIGHTER THAN A STAR—THAT SURROUNDS THE GHOST RIDER, SHRINKING HIM, DOWN, DOWN, DOWN
THEN, ADAM/NULL RISES.
17

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BUT THE FIRES IN THE DEMON'S HEART DO NOT DWINDLE. THIS INDIGNITY ONLY FEEDS HIS RAGE...
AND, BY SHEER FORCE OF UNHOLY WILL...
HE GROWS!
FOOL!
YOU WILL NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO THAT TO ME AGAIN, DO YOU HEAR?
NEVER AGAIN!
NOOO
THE PAIN ROCKS ADAM'S NULL DARKNESS AS HE BATTLES THE HUMAN AND THE SHADOW
AND ADAM HENDERSON RUNS SCREAMING INTO THE NIGHT!
ADAM STRUGGLES TO REGAIN CONTROL TO FORCE THE PAIN DOWN INTO HIS HEART OF DARKNESS
WE ARE MUCH ALIKE, DEMON TOO MUCH ALIKE
I CANNOT BEAR THE SIGHT OF YOU I WILL NOT BEAR THE SIGHT OF YOU!
THE EFFORT TO TELEKINETICALLY LIFT THE POLICE CAR IS ALMOST UNBEARABLE ADAM'S HEART SLAMS DESULTORILY IN HIS CHEST THE VEINS ON HIS NECK BULGE OUT

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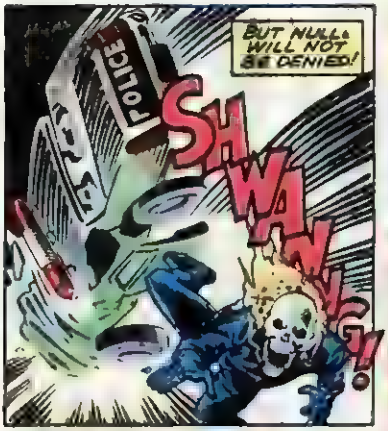
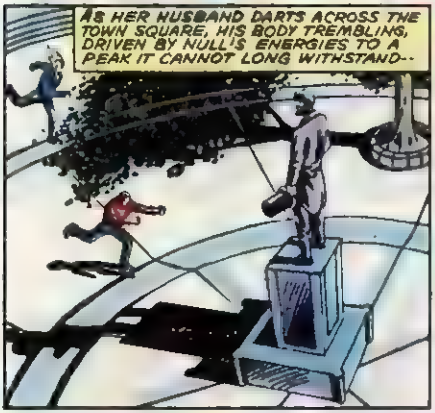
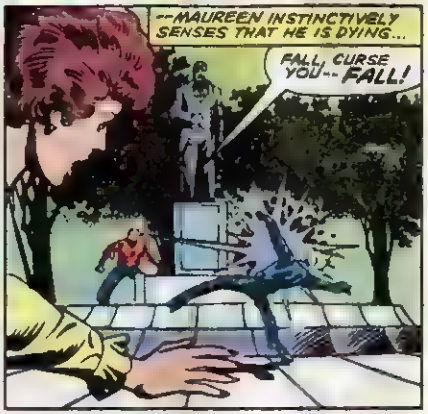
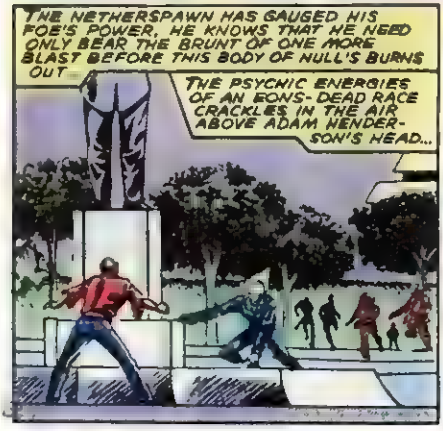
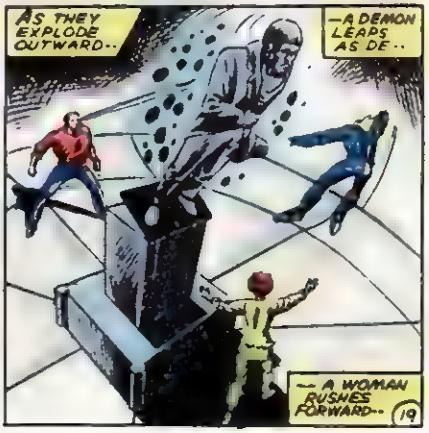



AS HER HUSBAND DARTS ACROSS THE TOWN SQUARE, HIS BODY TREMBLING, DRIVEN BY NULL'S ENERGIES TO A PEAK IT CANNOT LONG WITHSTAND--




THE NETHERSPAWN HAS GAUGED HIS FOE'S POWER, HE KNOWS THAT HE NEED ONLY BEAR THE BRUNT OF ONE MORE BLAST BEFORE THIS BODY OF NULL'S BURNS OUT
THE PSYCHIC ENERGIES OF AN EONS-DEAD RACE CRACKLES IN THE AIR ABOVE ADAM HENDERSON'S HEAD...



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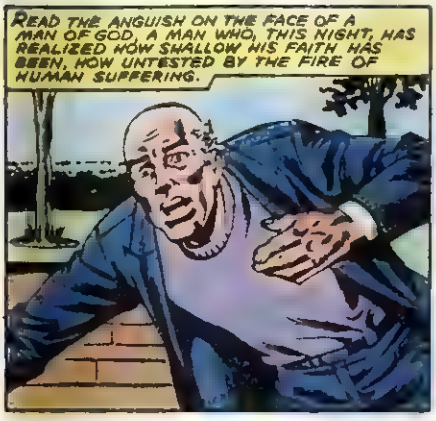
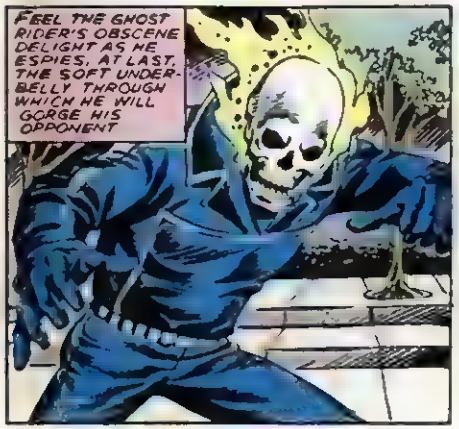

READ THE ANGUISH ON THE FACE OF A MAN OF GOD, A MAN WHO, THIS NIGHT, HAS REALIZED HOW SHALLOW HIS FAITH HAS BEEN, HOW UNTESTED BY THE FIRE OF HUMAN SUFFERING.

SEE LOVE RISE UP FROM THE PITS OF A BROKEN MAN'S SOUL. SEE HUMANITY DRIVE DOWN THE LIVING DARKNESS, IF ONLY FOR A SECOND
MAUREEN--!



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BULLPEN BULLETINS

INTRODUCING...

. . . Ken and Ellie's darling boy, supreme high mucksmuck of the mighty Marvel Comics creative crew, Editor of all he surveys, me. As usual, I'm here to give you the news and backstage blather.

WEDDINGS, BABIES, AND STUFF.

Boy, am I ever behind on these things! Please, hereby, be thou informed of the marriage of topnotch *X-Men* inker Bob Wiacek to beautiful Ann Keravitis, in November of 1980! Also, be thou informed of the marriage of ace colorist Bob Sharen to gorgeous Karen Jones in June of 1981. Also, be thou informed of the marriage of recently-promoted Editor Mark Gruenwald to stunning Belinda Gass last May. May I add that all of the above-named ladies are as intelligent and accomplished in their own fields (which are computer analysis, teaching, and singing, respectively) as they are beautiful. Congratulations, folks.

It also gives me great pleasure to announce the birth of Allen and Judy Milgrom's first child, Rachel Gail Milgrom this February fifth. Allen, as you know, is an artist as well as an outstanding Editor. The inside word is that he's got the kid inking backgrounds for him already. Congratulations, Al and Judy!

Last, and least, Bob Layton has been cloned. Congratulations, Bob.

MARVEL MOVES!

As of April 26th, the Mighty Marvel Comics Group's new headquarters are at 387 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. Please use our new address for all correspondence — subscriptions, complaints, raves, kickbacks, or just shooting the breeze.

You should see the new offices! In fact, so should I! As I write this, it's only mid-February, so we haven't moved yet (though we will be by the time you read this) so I really don't know what our new space is like. I've seen the floor plan though, and I think we're going to like it. I'll tell you all about the new digs after we get settled.

G. I. JOE ADVERTISED ON TV!

Have you noticed the national television advertisements for our new *G. I. JOE* comic book? I believe that this is the first time in history that a comic book has been advertised on network TV! That alone makes our $1.50 special 48 page first issue, printed offset on deluxe paper, a collectors item! Besides that, I happen to think the concept is terrific! It's about a super-special anti-terrorist unit of the U. S. Army code-named "G. I. Joe," which uses the latest in computerized, laser-guided, high-tech weaponry and equipment. Imagine a gun which automatically aims wherever you look and destroys any target your eyes are focused on when you say "bang" into your helmet-mike. It's real — and you'll see it and other sophisticated gear in action in *G. I. JOE*. I promised you no hard sell in this column, so I'll refrain from giving you the "rush right out and buy lots" line. It's probably too late anyway. I can't help being excited about *G. I. JOE* and Marvel's first TV advertising for it, however. The ad was prepared by Marvel Productions, our own television production studio and run with the help and cooperation of the super terrific people at Hasbro Toys. It seems to us that this could be the single biggest event in comics history, marking the beginning of a new era of wider exposure for Marvel Comics and the Marvel Universe. I wanted you to know about it.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE...

. . . would you believe that I've been named as one of the six *New Yorkers of the Year* for 1981 by the JayCees of New York? The honor was bestowed upon me for my contributions toward revitalizing the comics industry and helping Marvel Comics achieve a new pinnacle of success. Wow. I'm deeply honored. . . and I'm going to ask for a raise, because of this, of course! The others honored included Dave Winfield of the New York Yankees and Gary Jeter of the New York Giants. Not bad company, eh?

IN CLOSING...

. . . I'd just like to say that I was only kidding about Bob Layton being cloned. Actually, Baby-faced Bob, who is an extremely talented artist and writer, and a true gentleman whom I am privileged to call a friend, was not cloned. He was Xeroxed.

Best,

Jim Shooter

THE HYPE BOX

Get a load of **KA-ZAR #17** . . . BRUCE JONES and guest penciller **RON FRENZ** have come up with the guardian tiger most of best tale of the year as Ka-Zar, Shanna, Zaka, and private-eye Scott Brannigan, (who's engaged in a multi-level adventure that I'm dorn't be telling about for months to come).

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #69 . . . You demanded it - and now you've got it and here! The return of **Cloak and Dagger!**

MARVEL TEAM-UP #129 . . . Spider-Man teams up with the swashbuckling hero of the 1930's, **Dominic Fortune!** Only Dom is now in his seventies. What's his secret? Read it and find out!

WHAT IF #34 . . . The Marvel Universe will never be the same after this special all-humor issue featuring a mega-short spoofs on our stories by a multitude of comic heroes including MILLER, BYRNE, CLAREMONT, SIENKIEWICZ and HEMBECK.

CRAZY #69 - This Crazy Super Special contains 80% more material, features a campoon of the Death of Phoenix, (and the inimitable BYRNE/AUSTIN artwork with all new dialogue by JIM OWSLEY - you're either gonna love it or hate it, but you've got to see it!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

- **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #80** — The Thing and Spider-Man!
- **TEAM AMERICA #3**
- **SPIDER-WOMAN #45**
- **G. I. JOE #2**
- **DAZZLER #18**
- **KA-ZAR #17**
- **DENNIS THE MENACE #10**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #186**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #231**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #273**
- ☐ **THOR #322**
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #44**
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER #71**
- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT #22**
- ☐ **DR. STRANGE #54**
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #274**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #222**
- ☐ **CONAN #137**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #142** — Reprinting **Amazing Spider-Man #5**, by LEE and DITKO, featuring Spidey's first encounter with *Dr. Doom!*
- **X-MEN #109**
- **ROM #33**
- **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #84**
- **MARVEL SUPER HERO CONTEST OF CHAMPIONS** (Limited Series) **#3** — The Final Chapter!
- **FANTASTIC FOUR #245**
- **MARVEL TEAM-UP #129** - Spider-Man and Dominic Fortune! See Hype Box!
- **IRON MAN #109**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #69** — The return of *Cloak and Dagger!*
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #110**
- ☐ **STAR WARS #62**
- ☐ **MASTER OF KUNG FU #115**
- ☐ **WHAT IF #34** — Special *all humor issue!*

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **CRAZY #69** — A Super Special featuring a special re-worded *Death of Phoenix!*
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #78**
- ☐ **BIZZARRE ADVENTURES #32** — This issue's themes: "Gods" It's weird!

MARVEL SUPER SPECIAL

- ☐ **#21: THE CONAN MOVIE** — Marvel's adaptation (by MICHAEL FLEISHER and JOHN BUSCEMA) of the movie of the year, plus articles on and color stills from the film.

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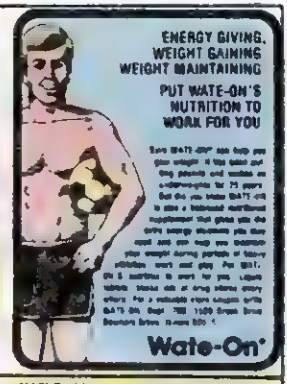

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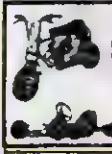

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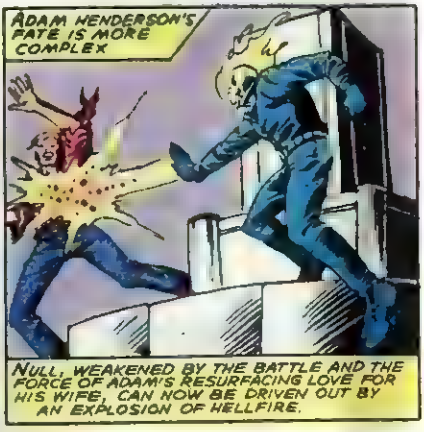
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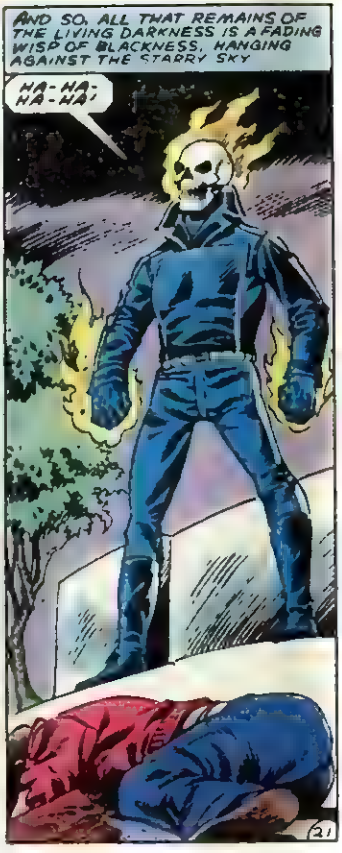

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AFTERMATH ONE: PASTOR MATHESON.
OLIVER! WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU?
ONE OF HIS LEGS SEEMS TO BE BROKEN, MA'AM BUT HE'S ALL RIGHT.
HOW CAN YOU BE ALL RIGHT? DON'T WORRY, OLIVER--HELP WILL BE HERE SOON. WE'LL GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL, WE'LL--
N-NOW, SARAH... MY LOVE... JUST YOU CALM DOWN, WILL YOU? I AM ALL RIGHT.
SOME BROKEN BONES AND BRUISES ARE A SMALL PRICE TO PAY--FOR WHAT I'VE FOUND TONIGHT.
OLIVER, I LOVE YOU, DEAR. I LOVE YOU.
AFTERMATH TWO: ADAM HENDERSON.
ADAM!
W-WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?
S-SO COLD, MAUREEN... SO B-BLASTED COLD...
DON'T WORRY, ADAM! I'M HERE WITH YOU! I'LL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU! ALWAYS! WE'LL SORT THIS OUT! WE'LL MAKE IT THROUGH! I'LL HELP YOU!
YOU ALREADY HAVE HELPED ME, MAUREEN. I SAW YOU... I SAW US TONIGHT. I SAW...
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH, MAUREEN.
AND I LOVE YOU ADAM--SO VERY VERY MUCH!
AFTERMATH THREE: JOHNNY BLAZE.
FOR HIM THERE IS NO HOPE...
... THERE IS NO LOVE.
THERE IS ONLY SURVIVAL--AND THE LONG, LONG NIGHTS TO COME.
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NEXT
THE TEMPTING of JOHNNY BLAZE!

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- G.I. Joe Military Web Belt — adjustable, olive drab color, Official G.I. Joe Team engraved brass buckle.
- Plastic G.I. Joe membership card.
- G.I. Joe Wall Poster—Big 17" x 22" full color poster of a G.I. Joe Mobile Strike Force Team.
- G.I. Joe Iron-on Emblem—For T-Shirts, Sweatshirts, Jackets.
- Introductory Newsletter.
- Annual G.I. Joe Mobile Strike Force Newsletter—with news about the G.I. Joe Team and special offers.

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OFFICIAL

G.I.JOE®

MOBILE STRIKE FORCE APPLICATION FORM.

Please enlist me as a one-year charter member of the official G.I. Joe Mobile Strike Force for the annual membership fee of $5.00.

Offer ends January 31, 1983.

Send checks or money orders—NO CASH. Allow 4-8 weeks for delivery of membership kit.

Send to: **Official G.I. Joe**
Mobile Strike Force
P.O. Box 775
Westbury, NY 11590

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Birthday _____
Month Day Year

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